

### **Amendments to the Claims**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

#### **Listing of Claims:**

Claims 1 – 21 (cancelled)

Claim 22 (currently amended): A method ~~which may be used to protect equipment from corrosion, said method~~, comprising ~~protecting pieces of equipment from corrosion by treating~~ said pieces of equipment with a first protective coating, wherein:

- a) said first protective coating is selected to protect said pieces of equipment from exposure ~~are intended to be exposed to high temperatures~~ temperatures at least equal to the temperature at which metal dusting occurs and to at least one fluid, wherein said fluid comprises at least one member selected from the group consisting of:
  - 1) a hydrocarbon; and
  - 2) carbon monoxide;
- b) said pieces of equipment are made from an alloy, wherein said alloy comprises at least one member selected from the group consisting of:
  - 1) nickel;
  - 2) iron;
  - 3) chromium; and
  - 4) aluminum; and
- c) said pieces of equipment are joined together with joining pieces, wherein:
  - 1) said joining pieces are protected from corrosion over at least part of their respective surfaces by a second protective coating;
  - 2) said joining pieces are externally welded to said pieces of equipment such that the welding is not applied to inner surfaces

~~of said pieces of equipment; and said joining pieces having a geometry such that there is no internal welding required on said joining pieces, and~~

- 3) said protecting of said joining pieces occurs prior to said welding of said joining pieces.

Claim 23 (previously presented): The method of claim 22, further comprising producing said second protective coating by aluminization.

Claim 24-25 (cancelled)

Please add the following new claims:

26. (New) A method, comprising:

providing at least two pieces of equipment and at least one joining piece;  
treating the pieces of equipment with a first protective coating, wherein:

- a) the first protective coating is selected to protect the pieces of equipment from exposure to temperatures at least equal to the temperature at which metal dusting occurs and to at least one fluid, wherein the fluid comprises at least one member selected from:
- 1) a hydrocarbon; and
  - 2) carbon monoxide; and
- b) the pieces of equipment are made from an alloy, wherein the alloy comprises at least one member selected from:
- 1) nickel;
  - 2) iron;
  - 3) chromium; and
  - 4) aluminum;

treating the at least part of an interior surface of the joining piece with a second protective coating selected to protect the coated joining piece from corrosion over at least part of the interior surface of the joining piece; and

welding the treated joining piece to each of the respective treated pieces of equipment, whereby the treated pieces of equipment are joined to one another, wherein the welding is not applied to the interior surface of the joining piece.

27. (New) The method of claim 26, further comprising producing the second protective coating by aluminization.

28. (New) A method, comprising:

providing at least two pieces of equipment and at least one joining piece;

treating the pieces of equipment with a first protective coating, wherein:

- a) the first protective coating is selected to protect the pieces of equipment from exposure to temperatures at least equal to the temperature at which metal dusting occurs and to at least one fluid, wherein the fluid comprises at least one member selected from:
  - 1) a hydrocarbon; and
  - 2) carbon monoxide; and
- b) the pieces of equipment are made from an alloy, wherein the alloy comprises at least one member selected from:
  - 1) nickel;
  - 2) iron;
  - 3) chromium; and
  - 4) aluminum;

treating the at least part of an interior surface of the joining piece with a second protective coating selected to protect the coated joining piece from corrosion over at least part of the interior surface of the joining piece; and

welding the treated joining piece to exterior faces of the pieces of equipment.

29. (New) The method of claim 28, further comprising producing said second protective coating by aluminization.

30. (New) A method, comprising:

providing at least two pieces of equipment and at least one joining piece;

treating the pieces of equipment with a first protective coating, wherein:

a) the first protective coating is selected to protect the pieces of equipment from exposure to temperatures at least equal to the temperature at which metal dusting occurs and to at least one fluid, wherein the fluid comprises at least one member selected from:

- 1) a hydrocarbon; and
- 2) carbon monoxide; and

b) the pieces of equipment are made from an alloy, wherein the alloy comprises at least one member selected from:

- 1) nickel;
- 2) iron;
- 3) chromium; and
- 4) aluminum;

treating the at least part of an interior surface of the joining piece with a second protective coating selected to protect the coated joining piece from corrosion over at least part of the interior surface of the joining piece; and

welding the treated joining piece to each of the respective treated pieces of equipment, whereby the regions of the treated pieces of equipment affected by welding are not protected by the first or second protective coating.

31. (New) The method of claim 30, further comprising producing said second protective coating by aluminization.